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Saddling up for Rodeo

Yokota team gears up for biannual international airlift competition

By Senior Master Sgt. Gordon Van Vleet
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Just the mention of the word rodeo conjures up images of cowboys, bulls and wild horses. Add the word airlift to the beginning and the thought of Slim Pickens riding the payload of a B-52 in *Dr. Strangelove* might surface.

But in actuality the 2000 Airlift Rodeo is an international mobility competition that brings together more than 70 countries and will take place from May 6 to 13 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

More than 60 aircraft and thousands of participants will be on hand testing the skills of an airlift wing's operational capabilities.

This year, the 374th Airlift Wing will send a 36-troop contingent to this biannual event, said Maj. Geoff Gibbs, Yokota's Rodeo Team Chief.

The Rodeo event got its start in the early 60's as a competition to help train the Air Transport Service in the Computed Air Release Point aerial delivery system.

This competition changed names many times, evolving into today's world-wide, multi-service, international event.




file photo
Yokota's best of the best will once again take on the world during the 2000 Airlift Rodeo May 6 to 13 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

"The Rodeo is designed to test the limits of our airlift wing's operational capabilities, ranging from perfectly timed precise airdrops and shortfield landings, to sharp-shooter accurate weapons firing," said Gibbs. "Also tested will be critical airborne patient care under stressful environments, me-

see RODEO page 2

Commitment to caring

Total funds Yokota personnel have donated to the Air Force Assistance Fund through March 10. Forty-eight percent of the base population have been contacted as of March 13. For more information, contact your unit AFAF representative.



Independent graphic by Senior Airman Matt Miller
Source: 1st Lt. Scott Latimer, wing AFAF project officer

Base construction continues

By Staff Sgt. Alan Williams
Chief of Internal Information

Like Rome, Yokota wasn't built in a day. There are many hours of work ahead before residents can begin to enjoy the facilities under ongoing construction.

According to Allyn Tabata, Yokota resident engineer for U.S. Army Corp of Engineers District Japan, at least three of the sites here are due for turnover to the base and operating agencies this year and several others by middle to late spring 2001.

Among the facilities to be turned over sometime late in the spring are the three structures in the north housing area comprised of 12-two bedroom townhouse style units.

According to Housing Management Assistant Lisa Bass, once the property is released to the Housing Office it will be inspected, then furniture and appliances have to be ordered and installed, followed by deciding which families will occupy the new townhouses.

The new recreation area will host a conference room another big screen television, an indoor playground, virtual reality video games, additional computers, and a pool.

For the families living in the west area of Yokota the wait isn't over but the end is near. The West Youth Center and the West Recreation Area are also due for turn over.

The new youth center, due in spring, will require further preparation prior to its use.

Some of the new furnishings for the youth center are on order, according to Shenethia Carter, chief of the Family Member Support Flight.

But already on hand are two baby grand pianos for the music room, mats for gymnastics, some of the computers which are mandated by the Air Force as well as other recreational equipment. It will include a big screen television as well. FMSF is also aggressively recruiting for the youth center staff.

The new recreation area will host a conference room another big screen television, an indoor playground, virtual reality video games, like car racing, for adult recreation as well as additional computers. It will also have a pool but, Yokota residents won't be able to en-

see BUILD page 2

News in short

Yokota awards

The following individuals and organizations were recognized as the best in their respective work areas and ranks.

PACAF awards:

Manpower – Capt. Fields, Kevin Smith

PV Weems Outstanding USAF Navigator – Capt. John Steckbeck

Medical Group: Health Services, Senior Airman Louella Sickels; **Pharmacy**, Staff Sgt. Christian Carawan and Master Sgt. Justin Bodden; **Nursing**, Capt. Jack Burke; **Sara Wells award**, Master Sgt. Albert Ambat; **Medical Information Systems**, Senior Airman Amanda Hughes and Team Yokota; **Nutritional Medicine**, Tech. Sgt. Carlo Filote.

Mission Support: Outstanding Family Support Center Office category II; Outstanding Family Support Center Office senior family category, Ms. Simone Koram; **Enlisted PME Achievement award**, ALS instructor Staff Sgt. Thomas Martin, Jr.

Other awards:

1999 Air Force Association Outstanding Air Force Civilian of the Year, Joan Orr Award, Jeanine Sebaugh.

Air Force Intern Program selectees: Capt. Jay Alonzo 30 Airlift Squadron, Capt. Sean Tyler 374th Supply Squadron.

5th Air Forces Logistics Plans Annual award – 374th Wing Plans/XPL.

Special Olympics

The 2000 Kanto Plain Special Olympics is May 13-14 here. The organizers are looking for unit coordinators to aid in the volunteer coordination process. Interested individuals should call Jill Palmer at 225-3680, Shawn Bakel at 225-5211 or Nicole Flowers at 225-2296.

Tama river clean-up

The annual Tama River Clean-up is 1 p.m. April 30. Help Yokota's community relations program by cleaning up a mile and a half stretch of the Tama River.

To sign up, call the Public Affairs Office at 225-7020.

Tokyo in 12...



photo by 1st Lt. John Sheets

First Lt. Stephen Carr and Capt. Destry Hill, of the 459th Airlift Squadron, get an overhead view of Tokyo Monday during a routine flight to Hardy Barracks. This flight takes the UH-1N approximately 12 minutes from start to stop. The helicopters also provides regular DV support throughout the Kanto Plain area.

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ticulous airdrop, cargo and aircraft inspections and rapid loading and unloading of aircraft."

This year there will be active-duty Air Force, Reserve and guard units from around the globe along with teams from 11 other nations.

"Rodeo 2000 runs from May 6 to 13," said Gibbs. "We are going to hold a going-away party at 12:30 p.m. April 21 in Hanger 15, and leave for the states for a week of practice April 27."

"We are sending 36 people from Yokota," said Gibbs. Yokota's team will consist of members from the 36th Airlift Squadron, 374th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 374th Security Forces Squadron, 374th Operations Support Squadron, 374th Transportation Squadron, and a wing public affairs representative.

"Each competitor will be performing

at the pinnacle of their skills," said Gibbs. "To put our best foot forward, we want to properly equip our people for the competition."

"A number of fund-raising events are in place to meet the financial needs to help gain equipment needed that our current Air Force Instructions keep us from buying with unit funds," said Gibbs.

The fundraising will also help defray the cost of the April 21 going-away ceremony and reception party upon their return, Gibbs added.

In addition to working at the Asian Bazaar and asking for private organization donations, there are two fund-raising events scheduled – a Rodeo bake sale March 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the post office and a Rodeo car wash in front of supply, April 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BUILD from page 1

joy that part of the area until next year because it's due for release in late fall and requires pool side furniture.

Projects scheduled for completion next year include the Yokota Community Center, which will house the commissary and most AAFES facilities; the new Kanto Lodge, which has 4 floors and 125 units; and the new middle school, which should be ready to open for classes fall 2001.

But the school's recreation amenities won't be completed until the following year.

All of these projects as well as the many others in progress are products of the Japanese Facility Improvement Program. JFIP, originating decades ago as a burden-sharing initiative between the U.S. government and the Government of Japan, allows Yokota to receive special funding for new facilities.

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E-8 promotion rate higher than TOPCAP expectation

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas (AFPN) — The Air Force released its list of the newest senior master sergeant selectees March 15. Beginning April 1 and over the course of the next year, 1,405 individuals out of 17, 812 eligibles will pin on their new stripes.

This represents a selection rate of 7.89 percent, a slight decrease from last year's promotion rate of 7.98 percent.

"This still represents a dramatic increase in the promotion rate when compared to percentages in the early to mid 1990's. For example, 1994's selection rate was just 4.62 percent," Air Force personnel officials said. The TOPCAP objective for senior master sergeant is 6 percent. "We are optimistic that Air Force enlisted promotion rates for all grades will continue to remain at or above the TOPCAP personnel objectives over the foreseeable future," officials said.

The Cycle 00-E8 Senior Master Sergeant Evaluation Board convened Feb. 14 to March 1 at AFPC to evaluate individual records of master sergeants eligible for promotion.

The average total score of selectees during the cycle was 664.69. Average selectee score breakdowns are:

- 37.70 points, time in grade;
- 20.34 points, time in service;
- 134.98 points, performance reports;

- 18.53 points, decorations;
- 65.16 points, U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination; and
- 387.98 board score.

The average selectee has 5.32 years time in grade and 19.30 years time in service.

The complete list of selections will be posted on the AFPC home page by close of business March 18.

Academy Selections

The senior master sergeant selects automatically receive a school quota. Out of the senior master sergeant non-selects, a list of 360 primary and 720 alternates

are selected to attend the Senior NCO Academy in residence. This list will be released in conjunction with the senior master sergeant promotion list.

Selections are based on a combination of individual board score and supervisory examination. Specific class dates for primary selectees are assigned in April, and they'll attend SNCOA between November 2000 and September 2001.

For more information on the senior master sergeant list or the SNCOA, contact your local military personnel flight. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Yokota's new E-8s

The following Yokota members were recently selected to sew on the rank of senior master sergeant:

Duane LeClair, 605th Air Intelligence Squadron; **Belinda Parrott**, 5th Air Force; **Mark Vroom**, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Charles Young**, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Kenneth Gordon**, 374th Airlift Wing; **Marjorie McNichols**, 374th Supply Squadron.

James Dowdy, 374th Transportation Squadron; **Brian Phillips**, 374th

Mission Support Squadron; **Leonard Briggs**, 374th Communications Squadron; **Joseph Mason Jr.**, 374th Communications Squadron; **Linda Pemberton**, 374th Medical Operations Squadron.

Jeffrey Dutcher, 374th Maintenance Squadron; **Ernest Guarena**, 374th Maintenance Squadron; **Makhram Budhoo**, 630th Air Mobility Support Squadron; and **Wesley Whittington**, 630th Air Mobility Support Squadron.

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Feb. 27 -- Brandyn Matthew Cannon, 8-pound 9-ounce son of John and Aimee.

Feb. 25 -- Anna Mariah Frye, 7-pound 7.25-ounce daughter of Joann and David.

Feb. 18 -- Gavin Nicholas Tolley, 7-pound 7.5-ounce son of James and Emily.

Feb. 18 -- Blaise Pierre Gavidreault, 7-pound 8-ounce

son of Pierre and Michele.

Feb. 15 -- Rashaad Alexander Gardner, 6-pound 7-ounce son of James and Mekina.

Feb. 9 -- Alice Renee McMeans, 7-pound 5.25-ounce daughter of Dolores and Michael.

Feb. 7 -- Mikayla Monet Fitzpatrick, 7-pound 7.75-ounce daughter of Ginger and Tyrone.

Feb. 5 -- Austin William Kraft, 8-pound 4-ounce son of Brian and Ginger.

Jan. 19 -- Davis Keith Thompson, 8-pound son of Jason and Sandy.

Jan. 13 -- Anne-Katherine Jimenez, 6-pound 2.5-ounce daughter of Ruth and Jose.

Jan. 10 -- Kalena Sora Tyo, 6-pound 13.75-ounce daughter of Nami and A.J.

Jan. 7 -- Christina Marie Bakel, 6-pound 3.5-ounce daughter of Elma and Larry.

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Commander's viewpoint

The leading cause of death is...

By Col. Tom Massello
374th Medical Group commander

Behavior — yours, mine and everyone else's. Go behind the top causes of death as categorized by disease/injury type and you find as root causes ... self-destructive behaviors (sedentary life styles, bad dietary habits, abuse of alcohol, violence in its many forms, drunken driving, high-risk sexual behavior, etc., etc., etc.).

We prefer to avoid looking at the root cause, behavior. For if we myopically focus on disease/injury categories, we can delude ourselves that we are victims (helpless, unaccountable). If we peel back the



onion to root causes (our behaviors) it is clear we are not victims but perpetrators.

Newsweek magazine several years back ran a cover article called "A Nation of Victims."

The article touched on this theme: the nearly universal desire of Americans to see themselves as victims. There are two advantages of "the victim mindset":

First, you can't be held accountable if you're a victim.

Second, you can extract compensation if you're a victim (through litigation, etc.).

"Whatever it is, I'm not accountable, I'm a victim, and I should be compensated" seems to be our contemporary credo. A population composed solely of individuals with privileges but no responsibilities will not long endure. And, in particular, it will not solve its health care problems. The first step to

wisdom is to avoid self-deception.

In healthcare terms, that means accepting that the major cause of death and disability in this country is behavior—self-destructive behavior—yours, mine, and ours, and resolving to do something about it.

How about these for Millennial New Year personal health resolutions?:

■ "I will renounce the victim mindset and accept responsibility for my self-destructive behavior."

■ "I will act personally on behalf of myself, my family, friends and coworkers, and in fact everyone around me whom I can influence, to attack the root cause of death and disability in this country—self-destructive behavior!"

May we all enjoy the rich rewards of healthy behavior all day, every day, throughout the next millennium!

Is righteous indignation more important than good healthcare?

By George Kelling
Wilford Hall Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — I think I'm one of the victims of broken promises. I entered the Army in 1958, and while I don't remember anyone specifically telling me that I would have free healthcare for life, I certainly went through my Army career with the understanding that military healthcare would be there for me until I went to the big reveille formation in the sky.

As we enter a new century, it is clear that things have changed and that we are going to have to participate in the cost of the healthcare we receive. In our indignation over the costs involved in TRICARE, we often forget what we get for our money. The free healthcare we expected was the very product which inspired "MASH," "No Time for Sergeants" and a host of other satires about military life. Our focus was on care at no cost.

I am familiar with three sides of the TRICARE issue. I was an Army medic, am now a retired soldier, and currently work in the public affairs office of the Air Force's largest medical center. Perhaps because of this background, my pragmatism overrides my indignation, and I feel my family and I have all the healthcare in the world available, although at a slight cost.

I have seen the miracles of today's medicine. Many of

today's routine healthcare measures, such as MRI, assisted reproduction and laser eye surgery were just dreams 35 years ago. I don't want free, 1958-era care. I want state-of-the-art care, and it's extremely expensive.

I hear complaints as well as praises, and I have seen enough to depend on TRICARE and to want it to stay. Under the TRICARE system, my family has guaranteed, high-quality healthcare, either on base or downtown. There is a cost, but it is a great value for the money.

Finally, as a pragmatic retiree and healthcare consumer, I put my family's health ahead of the righteous indignation I might feel over broken promises. In the days before TRICARE, getting healthcare was similar to a weekend in Vegas. If you hit the jackpot, you got the best care in the world on base for nothing. On the other hand, if your luck ran out and care was not available, you were on your own, trying to find care downtown with little guidance and limited subsidy. As a TRICARE Prime enrollee, it is all there for me, although I have to pay something. Even if the care is not available on base, I have expert assistance in getting quality care downtown.

I would like nickel-a-gallon gasoline, eternal bliss and free healthcare. In the imperfect world I inhabit, I settle for going to the corner gas station, being reasonably happy and using TRICARE. It works, and it is a system my family and I have found we can count on.

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to Col. Mark Zamzow, 374th Airlift Wing commander.

Use the Action Line if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command. When you call, leave your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed. Your identity won't be released to the public. Subjects affecting the base population will be published in the Fuji Flyer.



Col. Mark Zamzow
374th Airlift Wing commander

225-TEAM or action.lines@yokota.af.mil

Kudos Team Yokota

I want to share a story and give thanks to Team Yokota for helping save my leg after a motorcycle accident. On Oct. 19, 1999, I was on my way back from a appointment I had in Yokosuka.

I was less than a mile from base when I was hit by a Japanese woman in a small truck. I had four broken ribs, a bruised liver and five of the eight major ligaments in my knees were torn.

On top of that, my left knee was dislocated so badly, my popliteal artery was stretched so that no blood was getting to my foot.

Thirty minutes after the accident, I was in the hands of Yokota's 374th Medical Group. Everyone on duty and many off duty, were brought into the emergency room to help take care of me.

From the stocky sergeant, who handled the situation with urgency and protected my personal belongings, to Maj. Specner Frink, who when I wasn't looking snapped my leg back into place.

I didn't find out until later that same procedure sometimes takes a doctor two or three tries before they can return the joint to it's normal position.

The professionals at the base hospital then determined that I needed to go to a Japanese hospital for further assistance.

The escort that they sent with me made sure I was in the right place and received the surgeries I needed. Without her help, the operation would probably have not happened and chances of losing my leg would have risen.

I received regular visits from one of Yokota's duty nurses during my 11-day hospital stay.

My tour at Yokota was unfortunately only eight months long.

I thoroughly enjoyed it and wish I could have stayed longer. There are numerous places and people on base that I would love to thank, too many to name here.

Most of all, I want to thank from the bottom of my heart to all of the medical personnel that were in the Emergency room helping me on the evening of Oct. 19th.

Harold H. Smyth
IS1(SW/AW) USN

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DEADLINE

The Fuji Flyer deadline is 4:15 p.m. nine days (Wednesday) before the publication date (Friday). On weekends and holidays the deadline is the Tuesday before.

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*Don't Forget about the
2000 AFAF drive. Cam-
paign ends March 31.
Call your unit AFAF
representative for more
details.*

Power outage

There will be a power outage for Yokota’s main base area from 8:20 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Buildings that will be affected are: 838, 938, 994, 995, 2095, 2096, 4018, 4117, 4118, 4155, 4156, 4157, 4158, 4159, 4160, 4163, 4166, 4167, 4168, 4169, 4170, 4189 and the steam pit for the high school. This work is necessary to replace overhead high voltage cables for the new Middle School construction.

In case of inclement weather, this outage will be postponed until Sunday. For more information, call Mr. Okamoto at 225-7440.

Church revival

The Yokota Church of God is holding a revival at 6 p.m. today and Saturday and at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Pastor Roy Strickland will be the guest speaker. For more information, call 227-7114 or 227-8629.

HAZMAT generators

Yokota will have an environmental compliance assessment and management program team visit from Mar. 27 to Apr. 7. All generators of hazardous materials and waste need to be looking over their program to include any previous internal/external ECAMP findings. Supply HazMart will not accept turn-ins of serviceable assets during this time frame. For more information, call Master Sgt. Burdick at 225-6057 or 225-9631.

Cherry Blossom Festival

Yokota will hold its annual Cherry Blossom Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 1 and 2 on McGuire Street and the parking lot of Bldg. 4303. Security volunteers are currently being sought to provide a safe and enjoyable time for the festival goers. For more information, call Public Affairs at 225-7020.

Ugliest dog contest

In conjunction with the annual Cherry Blossom Festival, the base Public Affairs office is holding an ugly dog contest at 1 p.m. April 2 at the parking lot of Bldg. 4303. To enter the contest, bring your dog to the park. For more information, call Public Affairs at 225-7020.

Women’s history month

With March being Women’s History Month, the following events have been scheduled:
Women’s wellness lunch, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mar. 24 in Bldg. 316 room 229. Sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center, this event will discuss women’s health related issues.

Enhancing the woman in the mirror, from noon to 1 p.m. March 27 in the FSC classroom. Capt. Irene Gould will discuss goal setting, what makes a woman beautiful and providing support to other women.
Community observance luncheon, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 29 in the Officer’s Club Ballroom. Cost is \$8. For tickets, call Angie Fields at 225-8725.

Hispanic-Heritage

The Hispanic-Heritage Committee is looking for volunteers to assist in the planning for the observance of Hispanic-Heritage Month. Interested individuals should call Al Vega at 227-8086 or Bruno Gonzalez at 227-2120.

Resource day

Yokota East Elementary School will hold a school-wide Community Resource Day from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 24 at the school. Community members will have the opportunity to share career skills, family culture and special interests. Individuals who would like to share a talent, special interest or career skill should call Colette Cronin or Mary Iwamiya at 225-5503.

Latin American club

Yokota’s Latin American Club holds its monthly meeting at 4:15 p.m. today in Bldg. 915. This month’s cultural exchange will be presented by Eva Vega and Nancy Murray about Panama. For more information, call 227-2120 or 227-8086.

Modeling scout

K&M promotions is sending a representative to Yokota to look for models of all ages from 1 to 4 p.m. March 25 in the Officer’s Club Ballroom. No pre-registration is necessary. For more information, call Sandie Fields at 227-7682.

Birthday meal

For people with birthdays in January, February or March, the Samurai cafe invites you and one guest to a special dinner. The meal is from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday and is free for the member. Make reservations by March 21 by calling 225-8870.

YJEC

The next meeting for the Yokota Junior Enlisted Council is at 3 p.m. March 24 in the Yujo Community Center. Nominations for officers will be taken at that time. For more information, call Senior Airman Matt Miller at 225-8834.

Above & Beyond

Who: Tech. Sgt. Frank Tuck
Reason: Tuck is the superintendent of the Combat Readiness and Resources section for the 374th Transportation Squadron, which coincidentally won combat readiness flight of the year at PACAF . He is responsible for wing mobility training and contingency deployments. In addition to his work duties, Tuck serves as a deacon for the, local protestant parish, a volunteer for the homeless ministry and vice president for the Yokota AB Protestant Parish Council.



Buddhism seminar

There will be a seminar on Buddhism from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Family Support Center auditorium. For more information, call 227-2533.

NCO induction

The NCO induction ceremony is at 9 a.m. Tuesday in the Officer’s Club Ballroom. All are invited to congratulate the first NCOs of 2000.

Wiccan group

Wiccan Spring Equinox Celebration is Sunday. For more information, call the base chapel at 225-7009.

Snow sculpture team

Applications are being accepted for the USA Snow Sculpture Team through March 31. For more information, e-mail ussnow@hotmail.com.

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Wanted: Sewing teacher, in my home, will provide machine and material. 227-9941.(1)

Wanted: Used Pack N' Play. 227-3585.(1)

Wanted: Wood dining table with four or six chairs, all in good condition. 227-8955.(1)

PCS sale: Bikes, toys, freezer, plants and more, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at 4526D.

For sale: Off-base phone line, \$350. 556-5144.(1)

For sale: Pionex 400mhz PC, Intel celeron, 64mb RAM, 8GB, 56k V90, Windows 98, with Epson Perfection scanner, 1200x2400 dpi, Adobe Photoshop 5.5, Illustrator 7.0, Printshop LE, \$800 for everything. 227-4159.(1)

For sale: Deluxe padded double stroller, good condition, \$50. 227-9941.(1)

For sale: Fish tank, 120 gallon, complete setup, fresh or salt, \$1,200; 13'x15' rugs, maroon and light blue, \$60; Whirlpool 220v A/C, \$75; loveseat, tan, \$200. 227-9571.(1)

For sale: White satin wedding gown, hand made, sequence, never worn, \$700 OBO. 227-8963.(1)

For sale: Panasonic Direct TV dish and decoder, brand new, must sell, \$220. 090-7014-2647.(1)

For sale: Sony home theater surround sound receiver with learning remote, \$250 OBO; Sharp microwave, small, good condition, \$30; recliner, \$80 OBO. 227-4529.(1)

For sale: Computer and monitor, Internet ready, dual 550mhz CPUs, \$1,500. 227-9437.(1)

For sale: Onkyo TX-DS838 Integra receiver, 100 watts per channel, built-in AC-3 decoder, 12 surrounding modes, great for home theater, \$800 OBO. 227-3103.(1)

For sale: Cerwin Vega speakers, surround sound, two front, two rear, one center channel, \$150 OBO for first set; two 12" audio response home speakers, \$100 OBO. 227-9437.(1)

For sale: Three-piece computer wall unit/bookcase, oak, \$625; teak table with four chairs, matching China cabinet, \$500, will sell cabinet separately. 227-4943 or 0908-587-9515.(1)

For sale: Four A/Cs, 15,000 to 8,000 BTU, \$400 for all; rear awning, fits three-bedroom west-side garden, \$325. 227-4943 or 0908-587-9515.(1)

For sale: Magnum revolver, .357, purchased at Yokohama Rod & Gun Club, fired only one box of bullets, stored at base armory, \$500 firm. 227-3799.(1)

For sale: Computer parts, 2x24 IDE DVD drive with decoder card, 2x2x6 IDE CD rewriter, modem, sound card, AGP video card, 2G IDE hard drive, with software, \$300 for all. 227-9444.(1)

Automobile: 1972 Super Beetle convertible, fully restored, new vinal black seats, new water-proof top, new engine transmission, \$7,000. 227-3989.(1)

Automobile: 1989 Toyota Trueno, two tone, automatic transmission, 2-door, air, heat, power

windows, door locks, mirrors and sunroof, AM/FM/cass, \$1,300 OBO. 227-4670.(1)

Automobile: 1991 Honda Del Sol, five speed, V-tech engine, \$3,900. 556-5144.(1)

Automobile: 1989 Ford Festiva, 2-door, JCI until Mar. 2001, AM/FM/cass, six-CD changer, automatic, \$1,000 OBO. 227-2175.(1)

Automobile: 1984 Toyota Lite Ace van, grey, automatic, good condition, JCI until Sept. 2001, \$1,400 OBO. 225-3437.(1)

Automobile: 1990 Toyota Carib wagon, 4WD, 5-door, AC, automatic, CD/cass/AM/FM, sunroof, PW, tilt steering, great condition, JCI until Sept. 2000, \$2,500 OBO. 0424-67-2161.(1)

Automobile: 1989 BMW 525 I, European specs, runs good, many new parts, \$6,500 OBO. 227-9444.(1)

Wanted: English speaking bassoon/violin instructor for a 13-year-old student; willing to travel for the lesson. 227-3898. (2)

Wanted: English teacher who can teach ESL, public speech and composition, travel 10 minutes from Fussa gate, 6,000 yen for two hours. 0705-560-1035.(2)

Wanted: Steel wok for science fair project, 12"-15" diameter, round bottom. 227-4054.(2)

Free: Male cat, reddish-orange, 10 months old, all shots current, microchipped, includes bed, litter box and toys, great with kids. 227-8719. (2)

Free: Tabby cat, very affectionate, great with children, with litter box. 227-4127. (2)

Free: Black Lab, 10 months old, great with kids, house and crate trained, has mandatory ID chip. 227-3220. (2)

Free: Fish, with rocks and plastic plants for an aquarium. 227-3014. (2)

For sale: Intel pentium 166 MMX, 80 MB RAM, 2GB, with 14" monitor, keyboard, speakers, microphone, includes software, original invoice and lifetime warranty, \$500 OBO. 227-2078.(2)

For sale: Yamaha dual tape deck KX-W392, fairly new, cost \$199, sell for \$100, Pyle 12 in. subwoofers, ported box, great for car, \$120 OBO. 227-9197. (2)

For sale: VHS-C Magnovox camcorder, 6x zoom, all accessories included but needs new batteries, weighs 2.7 lbs. \$125. 227-2590. (2)

For sale: Two story ferret cage, paid \$300, used it for a week, sell for \$75, comes with water bottle, litter box. 227-2453. (2)

For sale: Air conditioners, 12,000 and 18,000 BTU, buy both for \$400. 227-8582. (2)

For sale: Two year old pure-breed, papered,

male and female Siberian Huskies. 227-4349. (2)

For sale: Health Rider, total body workout, excellent condition, \$150 OBO; JC Penny window blinds for 3-bedroom garden unit, five sets, red, green, blue, black, \$100 OBO each set. 227-8453. (2)

For sale: Air conditioner, 14,000 BTU, used one season, \$150; 18,000 BTU, \$150 OBO. 090-1466-1045. (2)

For sale: Yamaha 8" subwoofer, 80 watt, \$100; Kenwood 10", 100 watt, \$150; both new in box, stroller with winter and summer sleeping bag, \$50. 227-8635. (2)

For sale: Dresser, \$40; Queen Anne end table, \$40; Pro Form GTX fold-up treadmill, \$200; bunk beds with bookcase and mattresses, \$300; Japanese double bed, no mattress, \$75. 227-4102. (2)

For sale: Bassett queen sized sofa sleeper, beige, good condition, \$400 OBO. 0425-37-6496.(2)

For sale: Two 9x12 rugs, one steel blue, one light blue, \$40 each; woodtone fiberboard cabinet with doors, 70x17x29.5", six-moveable shelves, three stationary, \$25; Health Rider, like new, \$100 OBO. 0425-30-5440.(2)

For sale: Vertical blinds for tower apartment, \$50; Health Rider, \$50; rugs, 5x7, navy and cream, \$10 each; seamist, \$20 each. 227-8045.(2)

Automobile: 1987 Nissan Sunny, power locks and windows, interior in excellent condition, runs great, \$550 OBO. 227-2078.(2)

Automobile: 1991 Honda Civic, JCI until May, \$1,200. 227-8045.(2)

Automobile: 1985 Toyota Supra twin turbo, power everything, automatic, V6, AM/FM cassette, tinted windows, excellent condition, JCI until March 2002, \$3,000. 227-9087. (2)

Automobile: 1989 Nissan 180sx, red, automatic, power windows and steering, AM/FM cassette, CD player, excellent condition, JCI until Sept., \$2,500 OBO. 227-7792. (2)

Automobile: 1989 Ford Festiva, red, 2-door, AM/FM/cass., 6 CD changer, JCI until March 2001, \$1000 OBO. 227-2175. (2)

Automobile: 1994 BMW R1100RSL, ABS, heated grips, 23,000 kilometers, meticulously maintained, \$7,500. 227-2279. (2)

Automobile: 1991 Nissan Presea, metallic red, JCI until Sept. 2001, 4-door, power everything, AM/FM/CD/cass., \$2,400 OBO. 227-9411.(2)

Automobile: 1990 Isuzu Bighorn SUV, 2-door, 4WD, turbo, diesel, 5-speed, air, Recaro seats, CD changer, excellent condition, JCI until Aug. 2001, \$3,100. 227-2836.(2)

ON THE BENCH

Mar. 17 through Apr. 6

Referees needed

Referees are needed for upcoming high school soccer season. Interested individuals should call Bren Shuler at 225-3680 or e-mail to brenshuler@hotmail.com.

Umpires meeting

An umpires meeting for softball and youth baseball is at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the base library. For more information, call Steve Muzzy at 225-5137 or 227-3998. Sign-ups are also taken at the Main Fitness Center.

Hash run

The Kamikaze H3 is holding a St. Patrick's Day Hash Run at 1:00 p.m. Saturday starting at the Main Fitness Center. Cost for the event is \$5. For more information, call Edo Forsythe at 0425-30-3525 or 225-6243.

Coaches needed

The Boys and Girls Club of Yokota is looking for tennis and volleyball coaches. For more information, call Fred McDaniels at 225-7441.

ROBERTS from page 8

lot of things I just don't know about right now. I can't say for certain what the future holds."

But what could be the boxing world's loss, could be the gain of Florida youngsters. They could possibly have the opportunity to learn from one of the best.

"I don't know whether or not I will continue boxing at the same level or not," he said. "I do know that I would like to open my own gym and pass along some of the lessons that I have learned throughout the years."

A love for boxing that began at the age of 12 in a local Boys Club gym as a tag along could possibly end as suddenly as it began. Roberts will always cherish the support he has received and the path his career has taken.

"I don't regret anything that has happened with my career," he said. "I will never forget Yokota or the wonderful people that have supported me over the years. They are like family and it's always tough to leave family."

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"We can't win at home. We can't win on the road. As general manager, I just can't figure out where else to play."

-- Pat Williams

1992 Orlando Magic general manager on his team's 7-27 record



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Yokota Air Base, Japan

March 17, 2000

Roberts recalls unforeseen career

By Senior Airman Matt Miller
Fuji Flyer Editor

In an ironic twist of fate, the eight-year Yokota tour of Tech. Sgt. Rick Roberts will end similarly to the way it began – putting service before self and a boxing career.

In May, Roberts will help fill the needs of the Air Force by cross training into the base education and training career field. This move forces him to permanently change station and possibly end a storied 12-year Japanese boxing career with the Japanese Boxing Commission's lightweight belt and record for most consecutive title defenses. A career that could have easily taken a different turn.

Roberts, 35, grew up in New York City being told by his uncle to pursue a singing career.

"My uncle felt I was too skinny to box and sarcastically told me to become a singer," said Roberts, who today barely weighs 150 pounds soaking wet when he's not boxing.

But this discouragement only made his desire to prizefight more prevalent. At the age of 12, he would tag along with his brother to the local Boys Club and pick up on the little things that were being taught.

Around this same time, big fights were being broadcast on television giving the sport national notoriety. And while most youngsters looked toward Mohamed Ali and Joe Frazier as role models, Roberts remembers a little Nicaraguan named Alexis Arquello. Arquello too was a small, skinny fighter with enough power and explosion to become a three-time world champion.

"I remember watching him (Arquello) fight and thinking to my self 'If he can do it, so can I,'" said Roberts. "He became my role model. I also wanted to be the thin explosive man."

With the need for discipline and a clear career path, the Air Force entered



photo by Senior Airman Matt Miller

Above, Rich Roberts could be trading in the gloves for a desk job with his future PCS. Right, Roberts prepares for a title defense at a local gym. Roberts ends his JBC career at 37-3-1 with 21 knockouts.

the picture for Roberts soon after high school.

At the ripe age of 20 and just out of technical school, Roberts would start his military career at Misawa Air Base, Japan. While there, he began what would later be known as his run for the JBC lightweight title.

Upon the completion of his Misawa tour, Roberts took some leave back to the states. During this time off he had decided to make the return from overseas, a move that might help his career in the ring.

"I passed through here before going on leave, and it was that first impression that made me change my mind," he said. "The base wasn't what it is like today. A lot of the niceties weren't here. I decided that I would change my dream sheet when I got back from leave."

But before he could even make his preference known, Roberts received word that his destination was set. The place that Roberts had as his final "dream sheet" entry would be the beneficiary of his service and future home of the JBC lightweight champion. His second duty station – the 374th Operational Support Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Roberts would soon make the best of his new home by finding a local gym



photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Greer

where he could improve his skills as a boxer. Over time, he started making a name for himself by winning a couple of fights and improving his JBC ranking.

"It was tough going at first, but I have always had great support from my co-workers and friends," he said.

As time passed and Roberts made his way up the rankings, his "fan club" grew.

"People would come up to me out of the blue and congratulate me or just ask me how I was doing," said Roberts. "These same people would come to my fights and give me the support I needed to get past the tough rounds. I would be hurting or sluggish and hear their cheers in the background. It gave me the lift I needed."

And with the growing support came the added pressure of being the poster child for the base, the military and the country.

"I remember how bad I felt after my last loss," he remembered. "I felt as though I had let everyone down. Yet even though I lost, I was still getting the pats on the back. The support didn't stop because I had lost."

Roberts refocused, won the lightweight title and successfully defended the belt 21 times.

"It wasn't like they (the JBC) were throwing easy fights my way. I was facing very good fighters," said Roberts. "I've had some very close decisions that could have gone either way."

And seemingly as quick as Robert's hit his peak, the orders came across his desk.

"It's going to be tough to leave. I am at the pinnacle of my career," he said. "It won't be long before I'm too old to contend with the best."

With his career in jeopardy, the thought of a possible end has crossed Robert's mind more than once.

"Right now I'm kinda indecisive on where my career will go. I don't know if I'll have the same support that I've had here." He said. "I don't know if the mission will support my boxing career or even if my boss or co-workers will support my habit."

"Just picking up and moving half way around the world is hard enough; then having to find a new gym, new coach and making a name for myself in a new place. I've thought hard about hanging up the gloves, but there are a

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